



# RockvilleReports

FEBRUARY 2021 • VOL. 67 #2



• FIND MORE CITY NEWS AT [WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV](http://WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV) •

## COVID-19: A Vaccine and Help for Our Community

Maryland must make more COVID-19 vaccine doses available to Montgomery County residents, the Mayor and Council wrote in a Jan. 26 letter to the state. Read the letter at [rockvillereports.com/2021/01/mayor-and-council-demand-maryland-send-more-vaccine-to-montgomery-county](http://rockvillereports.com/2021/01/mayor-and-council-demand-maryland-send-more-vaccine-to-montgomery-county).

### Getting the Vaccine

The COVID-19 vaccination program administered by the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services is preregistering people based on their priority group status, as set by the state of Maryland. Learn more at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/vaccine](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/vaccine). Preregister for a vaccine appointment and sign up for the county's email/text vaccine updates.

A new portal, at [covidvax.maryland.gov](http://covidvax.maryland.gov), allows eligible Marylanders to enter their address, ZIP code or location to view vaccination clinics available within a 50-mile radius.

### Getting Tested – For Free

Visit [MoCoCOVIDTesting.org](http://MoCoCOVIDTesting.org) or call the Testing Helpline at 240-777-1755 for more information about free testing, no appointment needed.

### Finding Food

Visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19-food](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19-food) for a list of food resources around the county and other important information. Rockville seniors can call the senior center at 240-314-8800, from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

### How to Help

If you would like to partner with the City of Rockville to help neighbors in need, consider donating at [bit.ly/donaterockville](http://bit.ly/donaterockville).

If you have a clinical background, the state is recruiting medical professionals to work at state hospitals, nursing homes, testing sites, and vaccination clinics. Visit [www.marylandmednow.com](http://www.marylandmednow.com).

Don't have a clinical background? The Maryland Medical Reserve Corps is seeking non-medical volunteers to help alongside public health professionals. Visit [mdresponds.health.maryland.gov](http://mdresponds.health.maryland.gov) to learn more.

### Reopening

Montgomery County remains in the second of three reopening phases, with reopening guidelines limiting office use and encouraging telework.

With these guidelines in mind, the city is not able to welcome visitors back to City Hall or many city facilities, and no definitive date for reopening can be established at this time.

Information about the city's response to the pandemic is available at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov), on social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Nextdoor), and on Rockville 11 (channel 11 on county cable).

Visit [mailchi.mp/rockvillemd/covid19updates](http://mailchi.mp/rockvillemd/covid19updates) to sign up for Rockville's email newsletter about COVID-19. For general city inquiries call 240-314-5000. ✚



## Ground Cleared, Construction Underway on New Skate Park

Construction is taking shape at the new Rockville skate park, with concrete being poured over the course of the next couple of months.

The new 15,000-square-foot concrete skate venue will replace the old wood and steel park behind the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, at 355 Martins Lane, which had deteriorated after close to two decades in operation. The old skate park is closed, and its wood and steel

structures have been removed for safety. The new skate park is expected to open in May.

As well as concrete ramps and bowls, and rails for skaters, the new park will include an on-site restroom, lighting, landscaping, shade structure, parking and access road improvements. Construction is anticipated to take four months.

For updates on the construction, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/1966](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/1966). ✚

## Check Once, Check Twice

State, county and city actions to slow the spread of COVID-19 mean uncertainty for activities, programs and facility hours in the City of Rockville. Please check our online resources to see if any information contained in this edition of "Rockville Reports" has changed.

City government will be closed **Monday, Feb. 15** in observance of Presidents Day.

The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will be open to residents and facility members only via advanced registration. Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter) for details.

Recycling and trash collections will occur one day later than usual throughout the week. For more information on recycling and trash collection, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-trash) or call 240-314-8568.

Parking will be free at city-owned meters.

Learn more at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov) or call 240-314-5000.



Protect yourself and others.  
Wear a mask.



#StopTheSpreadDMV

## City Eyes Start of Baltimore Road Improvements

Construction on a project to improve safety and access along Baltimore Road, a major east-west connection between the city's east side and Rockville Town Center, is expected to begin later this winter.

The project will improve convenience, accessibility and safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists, including pedestrian safety measures at several inter-

sections and easier access to the Rockville Metro Station.

The long-planned project required a lengthy property acquisition process that included obtaining approvals in accordance with federal and state regulations. The city sought and was eventually awarded a \$4 million Federal Highway Administration grant toward costs of the project.

On Oct. 19, the Mayor and

Council awarded a \$5.8 million contract for the project to Locust Lane Farms, Inc., of Upper Marlboro. The city's Traffic and Transportation Division and the contractor held a kickoff meeting on Jan. 12, and are reviewing the project schedule to determine when construction will begin.

Improvements will include roadway resurfacing, an 8-foot-wide shared-use path that con-

nects Rock Creek Trail and the Carl Henn Millennium Trail, completion of sidewalk gaps, pedestrian safety spot improvements, stream restoration, landscaping, stormwater management, and improved drainage through culvert replacement and new storm drains.

The project has two parts. The first part consists of road-side improvements from Town Center near the Metro station to MD 28 (Norbeck Road), which

*continued on pg. 7...*

Puede encontrar esta información en su idioma. Visite [RockvilleReports.com](http://RockvilleReports.com) y abra el menú de «Seleccione Idioma» de Google Translate, situado en la esquina superior derecha de la página.

如果您希望以您的语言查找此信息，至网站[RockvilleReports.com](http://RockvilleReports.com)，打网页右上方的谷歌翻“选言”选单。

Bénéficiez de ces informations dans votre langue. Allez sur le site [RockvilleReports.com](http://RockvilleReports.com) et ouvrez le menu « Select Language » (choisir la langue) de Google Translate, situé en haut à droite de la page.

이 정보를 한국어로 보실 수 있습니다. [RockvilleReports.com](http://RockvilleReports.com)을 방문하여 페이지 오른쪽 위 Google Translate의 “Select Language” (원하는 언어) 메뉴를 여십시오.

ECR WSS  
LOCAL  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

MAYOR & COUNCIL  
111 Maryland Ave.  
Rockville, Maryland  
20850-2364

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
SUBURBAN, MD.  
PERMIT NO. 63





## City's Financial Assistance Program Can Help in an Emergency

Need financial help? Facing eviction? Utilities about to be shut off? Need help paying for prescription medication?

Emergency financial assistance is available to eligible Rockville residents facing a financial crisis.

Depending on eligibility, REAP assistance may be available for funeral expenses and medical expenses. Referrals for emergency food, clothing, financial/employment counseling and other assistance are also provided.

Due to COVID-19, applications for financial assistance with evictions, utility-shutoffs, and prescription medications are being processed by phone and email.

For more information on REAP, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/reap](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/reap). For a full list of services provided by the city's Department of Housing and Community Development, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/2181](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/2181).



## Enroll Now for Montrose Discovery Preschool

*In Search of Daycare?  
Now's the Time to Plan Ahead!*

Spaces are available at Montrose Discovery Preschool for kids aged 3-5. Rockville's licensed preschool provides excellent care in a safe, clean environment!

- Smaller class sizes.
- Morning temperature checks.
- Face masks and physical distancing.
- More time outside, including free play, organized games, circle time and snack time.

Register at [www.rockvillemd.gov/](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/) registration. Email [childcare@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:childcare@rockvillemd.gov) with questions or to schedule a virtual tour. Meet Karen Etzel, Montrose's director, in the Meet the Employee article on page 8.



# Rockville's Generosity on Display During 2020 Holiday Drive

Individuals and organizations around Rockville delivered a brighter Thanksgiving and Christmas for those in need through the 2020 Holiday Drive.

This year, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the city requested cash donations only, instead of the usual collection of food and toys, and purchased gift cards for recipients in need.

The 2020 Holiday Drive raised a total of \$58,293 (which included gift cards worth \$1,525), as well as non-monetary donations worth \$8,925 (which included books and family sponsorships).

A total of 451 families — 1,577 people — re-

ceived grocery gift cards in November to purchase food for Thanksgiving. In December, families with children were given Target gift cards and a book for each child in the household; 1,026 children were helped.

The Community Services Division Family Sponsorship program served 28 high-need families, including 117 individuals, by pairing households with sponsors to purchase specific gifts for each household member.

Tax-free donations to the Holiday Drive are accepted year-round at [bit.ly/HolidayDriveDonate](http://bit.ly/HolidayDriveDonate). ❄️

## Mayor and Council to Continue Short-Term Rental Discussion

The Mayor and Council will hold a Monday, Feb. 22, work session to further discuss potential short-term residential rental regulations and consider input received from two public hearings on the topic.

The work session will begin at 7 p.m.

A short-term rental is when a dwelling unit, or part of a dwelling unit, is rented for a short period of time, usually fewer than 30 days. Most short-

term residential rentals are coordinated through third-party companies such as Airbnb, Priceline and Expedia.

While short-term residential rentals take place in the city, no laws currently govern the practice.

For more information, see the staff report included with the Sept. 11 public hearing agenda at [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter). ❄️



## GOOD NEIGHBORS MAKE FOR GOOD NEWS

... The Mayor and Council honored Rockville residents, including Gabe Meyer, with the city's Good Neighbor Awards on Dec. 14. Meyer, a talented trombonist, was honored for playing popular songs, including a regular finale of "Taps," nightly during the pandemic from the corner of the lake in New Mark Commons.

Other honorees were: Pete Altman, George Ashton, Scott Bell, Max Bliss, Nancy Breen, Clare Callaghan, Ed Chaffee, Nick Coutsos, Anna Couvillon, Patrice Davis, Joe Dixon, Janet Gallant, Jose Guzman, Darren Hall, Rachael Hamm Plett, John Hansman, Brandt Heitzman, Ric Jackson, Christy Koenig, Joe McClane, Mary Mceachern, James Meekin, John Miles, Mike Mills, Carol Moran, William "Bill" Nickel, Caitlin Olson, Kate Ostell, Linda Rosendorf, Patrick Smith, Rachele Stein, Brad Stelzer, Sally Stolz, Robert Tarone, Marissa Valeri, Heather Welter, Dan West and the Woodley Gardens Community Swim and Recreation Association.

For more about this year's Good Neighbor Award honorees, find video and the agenda from the Dec. 14 Mayor and Council meeting at [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter).



# Rockville Cemetery Featured on Rockville 11

The Rockville Cemetery Association and its mission to maintain a crucial part of Rockville's history will be the focus of a special Rockville 11 series, beginning this month.

The series will cover the cemetery's restoration, and history of some of the legends for whom the cemetery is the final resting place.

The first episode will premiere at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 5 on Rockville 11, county cable channel 11. Episodes will broadcast in that time slot each Friday until March 19 and be available on the city's YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/cityofrockville](http://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville).

Learn more about the association at [RockvilleCemeteryMD.org](http://RockvilleCemeteryMD.org). ❄️



**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CITY ON ROCKVILLE 11**

[www.youtube.com/cityofrockville](http://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville)

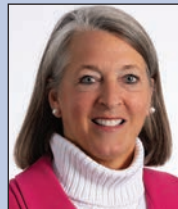


**MORE NEWS, MORE OFTEN, ON YOUTUBE ...** Now on Rockville 11's YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/cityofrockville](http://www.youtube.com/cityofrockville)): Find out more about what's on offer for Rockville seniors with "60+ Spotlight: Rockville Senior Services"; revisit the MLK Day celebration; and learn about Rockville's perfect score on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index, which shows our support for the city's LGBTQ community.



## Mayor & Council

mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov



**Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton**  
240-314-8291  
bnewton@rockvillemd.gov



**Councilmember Monique Ashton**  
240-314-8295  
mashton@rockvillemd.gov



**Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg**  
240-314-8293  
bfeinberg@rockvillemd.gov



**Councilmember David Myles**  
240-314-8294  
dmyles@rockvillemd.gov



**Councilmember Mark Pierzchala**  
240-314-8292  
mpierzchala@rockvillemd.gov

**VIRTUAL MEETINGS ARE BEING HELD ONLINE. Meetings are closed to in-person attendance and are livestreamed at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11).**

**Meeting Schedule: Regular meetings at 7 p.m. on Mondays, Feb. 1 and 8. Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter). Work session at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22.**

The Feb. 8 meeting will be preceded by a drop-in session by telephone with Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and Councilmember Monique Ashton from 5:30-6:30 p.m. To participate, sign up by 10 a.m. Feb. 8 at [www.rockvillemd.gov/FormCenter/City-Clerk-11/Sign-up-for-Dropin-Meetings-227](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/FormCenter/City-Clerk-11/Sign-up-for-Dropin-Meetings-227).

If you wish to submit comments in writing for community forum or public hearings, please email [mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov) by 10 a.m. the day of the meeting.

Share comments live during community forum. Sign up by calling the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations at 240-314-8280 by 10 a.m. the day of the meeting. All comments will be acknowledged by the Mayor and Council at the meeting and added to the agenda for public viewing on the website. To practice responsible social distancing, Mayor and Council meetings will be conducted by teleconference and broadcast on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, livestreamed at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11), and available a day after each meeting at [www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand).

## Calling All Fourth Graders! MML Launches 'If I Were Mayor' Contest

It's that time of year when Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton visits fourth-grade classes to talk about the role of mayor and local government, and encourages students to enter the annual "If I Were Mayor" essay contest held by the Maryland Municipal League.

This year's theme is "Teamwork Through Flexibility, Respect, Leadership, Civility." Students are asked to write an essay that shares a problem in their city or community and describes how, as mayor, they would bring people together virtually to collaborate and find solutions. One winning essay will be selected from each of MML's 11 regional districts throughout Maryland.

Winners receive \$100 cash, a citation from Gov. Larry Hogan and will be recognized during an awards ceremony later in spring. Essays must be received online by noon Tuesday, March 30.

The mayor welcomes the opportunity to speak with students about the essay contest, municipal government and what it is like to be mayor of Rockville.

Teachers or school administrators may email [jmobley@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:jmobley@rockvillemd.gov) to arrange for the mayor to visit their class virtually or in person if schools are back in session, however a visit by the mayor is not required for students to participate. The Mayor and

*continued on pg. 7...*

## Mayor and Council to Hear Budget Presentation FY 2022 Budget Hearings and Work Sessions Set, Survey Available

City Manager Rob DiSpirito is scheduled to present his proposed Fiscal Year 2022 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program in February, followed by Mayor and Council public hearings and work sessions in March and April.

For information about how to testify at hearings, find agendas, posted the week before each date, at [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter).

The Mayor and Council held a hearing on Jan. 11 and were scheduled to hear a presentation on Jan. 25, after the deadline for this issue of "Rockville Reports," on proposed rates and rate structure for the city's water and sewer funds. For video of the hearing and presentation, find the corresponding meeting agendas at [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter).

The city hired a consultant to develop a new utility rate structure, under which the Mayor and Council would set water and sewer rates based on property type, such as single-family, multifamily or nonresidential. If approved, the new structure and new rates would take effect in FY22. For information about the current rate structure, see page 371 of the FY 2021 budget, at [www.rockvillemd.gov/budget](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/budget) or call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. ✚

gov/budget or call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. ✚

Complete a budget survey, in English or Spanish at [www.rockvillemd.gov/budget](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/budget), to identify budget priorities, initiatives for reducing the negative impacts of COVID-19, and options for maintaining a balanced budget.

The Mayor and Council's upcoming budget process includes:

- **Monday, Feb. 22:** A presentation of the city manager's proposed FY 2022 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program.
- **Monday, March 1:** Work session and public hearing.
- **Monday, March 22:** Work session.
- **Monday, April 12:** Public hearing.
- **Friday, April 16:** Close of budget public record.
- **Monday, April 19:** Work session.
- **Monday, May 3:** Adoption of FY22 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program.
- **Thursday, July 1:** FY 2022 begins.

## Public Input Sought on Accessory Structures and Accessory Dwelling Units

The city will hold its final virtual public input session on Thursday, Feb. 4 to hear from the community on potential changes to regulations that govern residential accessory buildings in single-family neighborhoods.

City staff will be on hand at 7 p.m. via WebEx to explain and answer questions about the proposed revisions ahead of a future Mayor and Council public hearing.

The amendments to the city's zoning code under discussion would revise the regulations for accessory buildings and also allow the placement of accessory dwellings within accessory buildings. Under the proposal, an accessory apartment within the main house

would also be allowed.

An accessory building is a detached structure in the rear yard, such as a shed or garage.

An accessory apartment is a small living unit, separate from but enclosed within the main house.

An accessory dwelling unit is a second, smaller dwelling on the same grounds as the main, single-family house but in an accessory building. Examples of these include an apartment over a garage or a smaller, separate structure (on a foundation) in the backyard.

For more details about the proposed revisions, including how to register for the virtual public input sessions, visit [www.rockville.md.gov/2345](http://www.rockville.md.gov/2345). ✚



**A free-standing accessory dwelling unit.**



**An accessory apartment added to existing house.**

## Get Involved with the City

- **Send an email** to [mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov).
- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to [cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov) or by mail to the City Clerk's Office, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Volunteer** to be on a board or commission. Find ways to give of your time and talents at [www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer).

## Boards and Commissions

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may write to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280, or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at [www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions).

While some meetings are canceled, other boards and commissions meetings will take place virtually. See times and dates, and ways to participate on city's online calendar: [www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.aspx](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/calendar.aspx).

- **Feb. 10 and 24 Planning Commission** 7 p.m. (Meetings will be held by teleconference. Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter) for details closer to the meeting dates.)

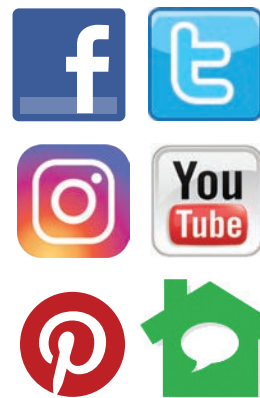
## Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Board of Appeals (1)
- Cultural Arts Commission (1)
- Community Policing Advisory Board (9)
- Environment Commission (1)
- Historic District Comm. (1 alt.)
- Human Services Advisory Commission (3)
- Landlord-Tenant Affairs Comm. (2 tenant alts.)
- Planning Commission (2)
- Traffic and Transportation Commission (1)

For more, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions) or call 240-314-8280.

## Connect with us on Social Media.



## ► SPEAK UP ◀

Report potential fraud, waste and abuse related to City of Rockville government services and employees.

**Call 1-866-921-6714**

Email [rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca](mailto:rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca)  
Visit [www.integritycounts.ca/org/rockvillemd](http://www.integritycounts.ca/org/rockvillemd)  
For more information, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse).

**IMPORTANT NUMBERS:** Main: 240-314-5000

Police Non-emergency: 240-314-8900

24-Hour Utility Emergency Report Hotline: 240-314-8567



**STAY INFORMED:** The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at [www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil). Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting.



## A New Way to Pay Water Utility Bills is Here



**Visit our new payment portal!**

Check your mailbox for:

- ✓ New account information.
- ✓ How to register.

Then:

- View and pay your utility bill online, anytime, with a credit/debit card or e-check.
- Receive bills and receipts via email with a paperless option.
- Get email and optional text message reminders.
- Choose to pay online or by mail, phone or text message.
- Create your own payment schedule with FlexPay:
  - Use Auto Pay to avoid late or missed payments, or
  - One-Time Pay to quickly view and pay without registering.

*It's safe, simple and secure.*

[www.rockvillemd.gov/utilitybilling](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/utilitybilling)



### Responding to King's Call to Serve

Thank you to community members who took part in a week of service across Montgomery County around last month's Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrations, including the more than 200 people participating in activities here in the City of Rockville. Activities included these Weed Warriors (above) who pulled invasive plants at RedGate Park, cleanups of a trail at Croydon Creek Nature Center, a self-guided neighborhood cleanup, making blankets for sick children and creating masks or scarves for needy families.

Learn how to serve our city throughout the year at [www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer).

### Times Are Tough for Rockville Businesses: Here Are Ways to Help

Want to help local Rockville businesses during a tough time? Here's how:

- Order takeout or pickup (and tip a little extra, if you can afford it).
- Buy gift cards online.
- Shop at the business' online store.
- Leave a positive review.
- Share information about the business to social media.
- Be kind: Businesses are under a lot of pressure right now, so be courteous to employees.

How about making Tuesday the night you order out and eat in? That's what #TakeoutTuesday is all about — supporting local restaurants by ordering for delivery or curbside pickup. You can order online from many Rockville restaurants.

Visit [Montgomery.com/moco-eats](http://Montgomery.com/moco-eats) for a directory of restaurants, as well as ones that have al fresco dining.

## Sign On for Sidewalks

*City's Prioritization Policy Allows Residents to Petition for New Paths*

Know a neighborhood that could use a sidewalk?

The city's Sidewalk Prioritization Policy helps determine if, and in what order, the city constructs sidewalks.

A missing sidewalk is any existing or potential pathway that, were it hard surfaced, would be used by pedestrians in their routine educational, recreational, business, shopping, working, civic and social pursuits. Sidewalks are

along streets and are typically built within city rights of way.

Rockville residents may circulate a petition to have new sidewalks constructed. Once proposed, prioritizing is based on:

- A utility score, which assesses a proposed sidewalk's connectivity to existing sidewalks and its proximity to schools, bus stops, Metrorail stations,

recreational centers and other nearby pedestrian generators.

- A traffic conditions score, which assesses a proposed sidewalk's connection to a street with higher speed limits.
- Other considerations, such as the availability of city right of way, public support for construction of the proposed sidewalk, and potential environmental

impacts.

Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/sidewalks](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/sidewalks) to learn more about the policy, view a map of sidewalks prioritized for construction and find petition forms.

Before circulating a petition for a new sidewalk, residents should call the city's Traffic and Transportation Division, at 240-314-8500, to discuss the proposed sidewalk. ✚



Sidewalk along N. Horners Lane, between Dover Road and Westmore Avenue in Lincoln Park, was completed last summer.



The city completed a sidewalk along Southlawn Lane between Lofstrand Lane and East Gude Drive last summer.



Sidewalk improvements recently completed at Fletcher Place and Bradley Avenue and near Twinbrook Comm. Rec. Center.



**BE CART SMART AND CAR AND CART COURTEOUS ...** When setting carts out for recycling and trash collection, remember to place carts in the street along the curb in front of your property.

Along busy streets, where carts in the street could pose a hazard, place carts adjacent to, but not in, the street, such as in the grass buffer between the sidewalk and street or, in locations where there is no buffer, behind the sidewalk. In all cases, carts should not be placed in the sidewalk because it impedes the path of pedestrians and can be particularly hazardous for those who use a wheelchair and cannot navigate around or move the carts.

The same goes for parking vehicles, bicycles or scooters. Please park them off sidewalks. Vehicles should be parked facing the direction of traffic and not blocking a fire hydrant, crosswalk or curb ramp.

Be cart and car courteous and show some love for Rockville's pedestrians.



**BE THE FIRST IN THE KNOW EACH WEEK WITH THE "ROCKVILLE REPORTS" NEWSLETTER ...** Did you know you can get the latest "Rockville Reports" news directly each week, sent to your email inbox at noon every Sunday? That's right. Visit [RockvilleReports.com/rockvillereports-newsletter](http://RockvilleReports.com/rockvillereports-newsletter) to sign up!



# Recognizing King's Legacy

The city's 49th annual Martin Luther King Day celebration, held virtually Jan. 18, included presentations of two awards to community members carrying on King's legacy. Find the celebration this month on Rockville 11, channel 11 on county cable, and on the city's YouTube channel.

## F. Michael Taff Award

*Awarded to an individual, organization or business that has helped to improve the lives of people with disabilities in the City of Rockville, such as through efforts to improve accessibility or raise public awareness.*

Selected for his work as a senior associate and direct service employee with TransCen, Inc., **Darrell Burns** provides technical assistance and employment specialist support to several projects, including Maryland PROMISE, Add Us In, Youth with Disabilities, and the Montgomery County Project. He works with over 25 youth, assisting them in exploring and finding their interests, exposing them to work experiences, and preparing them for their transition to adulthood after high school. Through his work in transition, he has trained others in job placement for people with disabilities, and educated schools on how to better provide transition services. He has also educated many local employers about the benefits of employing people with disabilities and helped place youth in jobs in Rockville and throughout Montgomery County. His enthusiasm radiates as he works with Rockville schools and students on transition through trainings and one-on-one counseling.



## Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Award

*Awarded to a high school student who lives in or attends school in Rockville who has worked to fulfill King's dream in either their school or the community.*

**Nancy Mvogo Mbala**, an 11th grader at Richard Montgomery High School and co-president of nonprofit Black Education Matters Inc., was selected as the Dr. Martin



Luther King Jr. Youth Award recipient for her fundraising, grant writing and tutoring of minority students.

Through her membership with Rocket Helpers, **Abigail Adigun**, a 12th grader at Richard Montgomery High School, was nominated for her dedication to educating the public about homelessness and lobbying for bills to provide more aid for homeless individuals.



As vice president of the Jaguars Scholars Leadership Program, **Jaiden Burney**, a 10th grader at Richard Montgomery High School, was nominated for creating opportunities, furthering racial equity and inspiring her peers.



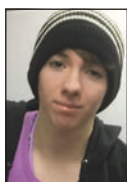
**Maegan Evans**, an 11th grader at Richard Montgomery High School, was nominated for watching out for her fellow students, protecting them from the negativity of discrimination and building their self-esteem.



As vice president of the Minority Scholars Program **Banja Kebbay**, a 12th grader at Richard Montgomery High School, has become a strong role model for the students. He was nominated for planning and implementing the Gators Mentoring Program, which pairs high school students with fourth-grade students of color at College Gardens Elementary School.



As the community outreach director for MoCo Pride Center's student-led organization for LGBTQ+ students **Lew Wedderien**, a 12th grader at Richard Montgomery High School, was nominated for their tireless efforts to protect LGBTQ+ students as demonstrated when they testified before the Maryland Senate Judiciary Committee about the Inclusive Schools Act in February 2020. ✚



## SAVE THE DATE

The City of Rockville and the Asian Pacific American Task Force present a

**VIRTUAL**  
*Lunar New Year Celebration*

**Saturday, Feb. 20**  
Premieres at 11 a.m. at [youtube.com/cityofrockville](https://youtube.com/cityofrockville)

## Take Care of Your Head and Heart, Virtually, with the Senior Center

Stay home and stay well with online seminars from the Rockville Senior Center in February.

For details, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation).

Register online, call 240-314-8800 or email [seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov) for more information. Sessions are free, unless otherwise noted.

### Healthy Heart, Healthy Brain!

This class will discuss the heart and brain connection. Learn risk factors and how to recognize symptoms for better outcomes. Presented by Adventist HealthCare. Register with course #17368. 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9.

### Random Acts of Kindness and Your Health!

Discuss the connection between your physical and mental well-being and how it's connected to kindness. Presented by Adventist HealthCare.

Register with course #17369. 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16.

### Jin Shin Jyutsu Self-Help: For Optimal Health and Healing

This deeply healing art uses the body's own energy to promote daily health and healing. The class will discuss and demonstrate

simple ways to use the art for yourself and your family. Common ailments (like colds, stomach aches, etc.) will be discussed and you will be shown how to balance your energy for daily maintenance. Presented by Betty Figlure, a JSJ practitioner for more than 35 years.

Register with course #17372. 1-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17.

### Managing Your Emotions

Learn how to distinguish between feelings and emotions and discover patterns that may contribute to emotional hurdles. Practice basic breathing techniques and lower stress. Presented by Bill Neely, performance coach, minister and chaplain, Brooke Grove Retirement Village.

Register with course #17434. 1-2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23.

### Managing Your Medications

Suburban Hospital pharmacy residents will demystify the do's and don'ts of medication management. Learn helpful tips and practical approaches to proper dosage and uses, the dangers of non-compliance and the future of prescription medications.

Register with course #17601. 1-2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25. ✚



## A Little Piece of Land to Grow Your Own

*Garden Plot Applications Being Accepted*  
The City of Rockville has 159 garden plots, about 25-by-25 feet, now available for rent at Woottons Mill Park for growing flowers and vegetables.

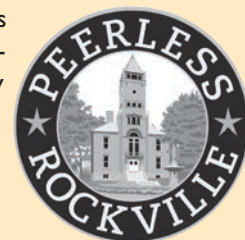
The cost is \$80 per plot for nonresidents; Rockville residents pay \$70 per plot. The season runs April 1-Nov. 14.

The city provides access to water and mulch. Gardeners are responsible for fencing, weed barriers, hoses, tools and other gardening supplies.

A registration form can be found at [www.rockvillemd.gov/gardenplots](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/gardenplots). Call the Rockville Civic Center's main office at 240-314-8660 for more information.

## Explore Josiah Henson Park with Glenview Mansion and Peerless Rockville

The Glenview Mansion and Peerless Rockville Speaker Series hosts a virtual presentation of The Archaeology of Josiah Henson Park, by Cassandra Michaud, at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11 on WebEx.



Michaud, a senior archaeologist with Montgomery Parks, will give an illustrated presentation on the findings of recent excavations at Josiah Henson Park, the location of a museum just south of Rockville, on the site of the Riley plantation where Henson and many others were enslaved in the early 19th century. The museum highlights Henson's story, his relationship to the novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and slavery in Montgomery County.

The presentation will discuss the archaeological investigations that have taken place since Montgomery Parks' acquisition of the site in 2006 and how that work has informed the public interpretation, the museum and the significance of the site's history today.

Register at [www.peerlessrockville.org](http://www.peerlessrockville.org).

**NEW:**  
**DONATE ONLINE**  
[bit.ly/donaterockville](https://bit.ly/donaterockville)

**Help your community!**  
**Support Rockville's COVID-19 response.**

- Assists seniors
- Helps families in need buy health food
- Lends financial assistance in emergencies



**TRUSTWORTHY, EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT ...** Rockville offers a telephone hotline and website for community members to report potential fraud, waste and abuse related to city government services and employees. Examples include violations of rules or regulations, gross waste of funds or theft of city resources. Community members may call 866-921-6714 or submit reports via email at [rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca](mailto:rockvillemd@integritycounts.ca) or by filing an online report at [www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/fraud-waste-abuse).





## Woof! Rockville is the City for Dog Lovers

Who loves dogs? Rockville loves dogs! The city was recently ranked third on Money.com's top 10 best places for dog lovers to live in the U.S.

Money used its Best Places to Live data and analyzed 183,000 data points across nearly 2,000 cities in the U.S., focusing on things like pet care facilities and parks within the city's boundaries, the percent of people who live near those parks, and good weather.

Rockville ranked because the city is "a dog's dream come true, since she almost never has to leave your side."

For more, visit [money.com/best-places-to-live-dog-lovers](http://money.com/best-places-to-live-dog-lovers).

## Permits and Extensions Available for Temporary Outside Dining

While dining indoors is not permitted for now, during the COVID-19 emergency, restaurants can create outside dining areas under the city's expedited permitting process to temporarily create or expand outdoor spaces on private property and within the city's rights of way.

Instructions for how to apply and an application form for temporary outside dining area permits are available at [www.rockvillemd.gov/2320](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/2320). There is no fee for the permit.

Existing city-approved outdoor dining areas do not require the new temporary permit, however, businesses wishing to expand their dining areas must have the permit to comply with city regulations.

Tents and similar structures are reviewed to ensure they meet fire code, safety requirements and other permitting requirements as necessary.

For more information, call 240-314-8240 or email [outdoordining@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:outdoordining@rockvillemd.gov).



## At Home, With Wildlife

Spending a lot of time at home? Missing nature? Why not bring nature to you?

Homeowners, as well as businesses, schools, universities, places of worship, parks, civic and community organizations, and others can create wildlife-friendly landscapes and earn National Wildlife Federation certification.

Certified wildlife habitats must provide food, water, cover and places for

wildlife to raise young. These certified habitats help to create corridors for wildlife to thrive throughout the community. The program encourages gardening in an environmentally friendly way, planting native species of plants and replacing lawns with trees, shrubs and other plants.

To find resources and learn more about becoming certified, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/wildlifehabitat](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/wildlifehabitat). ❖

## Be an Energy Star This Presidents Day Weekend

*Buy Energy-Saving Products Feb. 13-15 or Apply for Energy Rebates*

Homeowners thinking about upgrading an appliance, replacing a refrigerator, or even changing a light bulb, can do so tax free on Presidents Day weekend.

On Feb. 13-15, purchases of the following energy-efficient Energy Star products are free from Maryland's 6% sales tax:

- Air conditioners.
- Washers and dryers.
- Furnaces.
- Heat pumps.
- Boilers.
- Solar water heaters (tax exempt at all times).
- Standard-size refrigerators.
- Dehumidifiers.
- Programmable thermostats.
- LED light bulbs.

Learn more about Energy Star products at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov). Learn more about the tax-free weekend by visiting [www.marylandtaxes.gov](http://www.marylandtaxes.gov) and searching "Shop

Maryland Energy."

In addition, Pepco offers customers rebates on Energy Star appliances. Learn more at [homeenergy.savings.pepco.com/appliance-rebate-program](http://homeenergy.savings.pepco.com/appliance-rebate-program).

Washington Gas also offers residential and commercial rebates, including, for residential customers, rebates on furnaces, gas clothes dryers and standard or tankless water heaters. Learn more at [washingtongas.com/rebates](http://washingtongas.com/rebates).

Energy assistance may be available for customers having trouble paying their utility bills. Visit [bit.ly/utilityassistance](http://bit.ly/utilityassistance).

Find more energy-saving tips at [www.washingtongas.com/safety-education/education/winter-preparedness](http://www.washingtongas.com/safety-education/education/winter-preparedness) and additional resources at [mygreenmontgomery.org/2021/energy-star-tax-free-weekend-2021](http://mygreenmontgomery.org/2021/energy-star-tax-free-weekend-2021). ❖



## Be Salt Wise in Winter

In the winter, salt keeps us safe while we are on the move, but it also leads to higher levels of salt in the region's drinking water supply.

Remember: More salt isn't always best. Scatter deicer and leave space between the grains only after shoveling and clearing pavement. Sweep up any that is left after the snow and ice melt.

### Did you know?

- A 12-ounce coffee mug full of salt is enough to treat a 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares.

- When pavement temperatures drop below 15 degrees, salt won't work.
- A deicer with calcium magnesium acetate is the most eco-friendly deicer.

Find tips for how to be salt smart in winter from the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission at [www.wsscwater.com/saltwise](http://www.wsscwater.com/saltwise) or by searching #wintersaltsmart on social media. Learn more at [www.potomacriver.org/focus-areas/water-resources-and-drinking-water/water-resources/roadsalts](http://www.potomacriver.org/focus-areas/water-resources-and-drinking-water/water-resources/roadsalts). ❖

STUDENTS LIVING IN OR ATTENDING SCHOOL IN ROCKVILLE ARE INVITED TO ENTER THE

**Rockville Human Rights Commission's Multimedia Scholarship Competition**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MONDAY, MARCH 29**

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

*Foster awareness about human rights through an essay, poem, song, painting or other medium.*

**1st, 2nd & 3rd place earn scholarships worth a combined \$2,500, and will be recognized by the Mayor and Council.**

These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Board of Education of Montgomery County, the superintendent, or this school.

FOR MORE DETAILS:

**City of Rockville** [www.rockvillemd.gov/humanrights](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/humanrights) or email [jkelly@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:jkelly@rockvillemd.gov)



GO GREEN IN YOUR INBOX ... Get regular updates about the city's environmental efforts and events, including news about Rockville writing its first Climate Action Plan, and tips for living greener year-round. Sign up for the Environment and Sustainability News email newsletter at [www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/newsletters).



## Meet a Rockville Employee: Crystal Gorham

Crystal Gorham is the City of Rockville's landlord-tenant specialist and serves as liaison to the Landlord-Tenant Commission. Gorham, the city's housing services supervisor, works in the newly formed Department of Housing and Community Development.

We asked her a few questions about her job to introduce her to the Rockville community.



**What does the position of landlord-tenant specialist involve?**

The landlord-tenant specialist is here to serve the citizens of the City of Rockville. As the landlord-

tenant specialist administers, implements and adjudicates landlord-tenant complaints and inquiries, when inquiries are received, I guide, assist and advise both landlord and tenants appropriately to address the issue and come to a resolution.

For more information about the mission of the Landlord-Tenant Affairs Commission, contact Gorham at 240-314-8320 or cgorham@rockvillemd.gov, or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/110](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/110).

To learn more about the Department of Housing and Community Development, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/2181](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/2181). ❄️

In the public housing

**What did you do before joining the city?**

Before joining the City of Rockville, I worked for a housing authority. The housing authority's goal was to offer safe, affordable housing for low-income families. The authority regulated federal funds for the housing choice voucher and public housing programs. The housing choice voucher programs are when the subsidy is tied to the family, meaning that if the family decides to move across the state, the support will follow them.

## Snow Business Quick Links, Facts and Phone Numbers

When winter weather strikes, turn to the city's website at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov).

Closure and snow emergency information will be available on the website, as well as through Facebook ([www.facebook.com/cityofrockville](https://www.facebook.com/cityofrockville)) and Twitter (@rockville411), and by signing up for Alert Rockville notifications at [www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts).

City crews treat and plow roads in priority order. First are primary roads, including major arterial roads, emergency routes, central business districts and primary residential roads near schools. Next are secondary roads, including the remainder of neighborhood streets, alleyways and cul-de-sacs. To check if an address is within the city limits, find the Address and Residency Check map at [www.rockvillemd.gov/maps](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/maps).

This snow season, the city is urging patience and preparation on the part of residents. Operations and normal service times may be impacted due to precautions taken during the COVID-19 pandemic that include permitting only the driver, and no passengers,

in vehicles/plows, and entirely virtual storm operations meetings, with no in-person attendance. Crews will respond as quickly and safely as possible.

Removing snow from sidewalks, driveways and entrances is the responsibility of the property and/or business owner or community association. Rockville requires that snow and ice be removed from sidewalks, steps, driveways, parking spaces and similar paved areas for public use within 24 hours after a snowfall of up to 3 inches, within 48 hours after a snowfall of 3-10 inches, and within 72 hours after a snowfall of more than 10 inches. If residents can do so, they should clear snow from around fire hydrants and storm drains. To report a sidewalk that has not been cleared within the required timeframe, call 240-314-8330.

Residents are encouraged to check on older neighbors who may need assistance clearing snow. See the article on this page about the city's volunteer snow shoveling for seniors. ❄️

### NUMBERS TO KNOW

Emergency .....	911
Report a Downed Tree to the City .....	240-314-8700
City of Rockville Dept. of Public Works .....	240-314-8500
Water Main Breaks/Sewer Line Overflows .....	240-314-8567
Rockville City Police Dept. (non-emergency) .....	240-314-8900
Rockville Recreation Programs Cancellation Line ...	240-314-5023
Rockville City Hall .....	240-314-5000
Report a Power Outage or Downed Wire to Pepco . .	1-877-737-2662
Montgomery County Hypothermia Alerts (report safety concerns for people or pets) .....	301-279-8000



Jaden Walcoff, 2019 "If I Were Mayor" contest winner.

### Calling All Fourth Graders!

*continued from pg. 3...*

Council consider the contest to be a wonderful exercise in government studies and encourage fourth graders attending schools in Rockville to participate.

The contest is organized by the Maryland Municipal

League and the Maryland Mayors Association, and will be digital this year due to the pandemic.

For more information, including guidelines and forms for submitting entries online, visit [www.mdmunicipal.org/168/Mayors-Essay-Contest](http://www.mdmunicipal.org/168/Mayors-Essay-Contest). ❄️

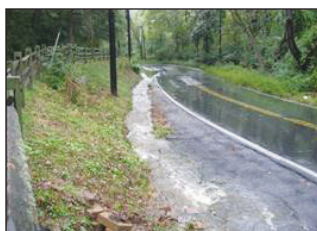
### Baltimore Road

*continued from pg. 1...*

will improve pedestrian safety with curb bump outs and enhanced crossing features at Grandin Avenue and at South Horners Lane.

The second part of the project, from Norbeck Road to the city limits near Rockville High School, will include roadway repaving, and improved drainage, creation of shared-use path and sidewalks, stream restoration, and landscaping.

Project impacts will include a full closure of the road and a detour for vehicles and pedestrians at the stream crossing near Rockville Cemetery, periodic lane closures, and on-street parking restrictions. Residents should expect construction vehicles, noise, dust and temporary driveway closures. Residents



and property owners will be alerted to these impacts before they occur.

Updates will be posted at [www.rockvillemd.gov/baltimoreroadproject](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/baltimoreroadproject), and communicated via neighborhood associations, mailings to affected residences or properties, and roadside signage, and will be included in "Rockville Reports." ❄️

### Sign Up to Alert Rockville for Emergency Notifications

When an incident occurs, Alert Rockville delivers important emergency alerts, notifications and updates via text messages, email or a voice message to your cell or landline phone.

**Signing up is easy:**

1. Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts).
2. Create a username and password.
3. Choose the types of alerts you want to receive, according to your preferred methods of delivery: text, phone, email.

### County to Provide Free, Virtual Tax Preparation Appointments through VITA

Montgomery County is hosting free tax preparation sessions throughout tax season for low- to moderate-income families that earned \$56,000 or less in 2020.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, which is run by the Montgomery County Community Action Agency, provides IRS-certified volunteers from nonprofit and public agencies who can help low- to moderate-income families maximize their tax refunds and credits, including the Earned-Income Tax Credit, and e-file their federal and state tax forms.

The program is using a virtual tax preparation model during the COVID-19 emergency. Virtual VITA allows county residents to use an online platform to securely upload their tax documents and have their taxes prepared for free by a certified tax preparer. No in-person contact is required.

Virtual appointments are available by calling 240-777-1123. TTY users can call Maryland Relay 711.

For more information, visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cashback](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cashback) or email [VITA@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:VITA@montgomerycountymd.gov).

### Volunteer to Shovel Snow for Older Neighbors

Each winter, the Rockville Senior Center

looks for ways to help older Rockville residents with snow removal. If you're handy with a shovel and don't mind digging out an extra driveway or clearing a walkway or two, you can sign up and volunteer for the program.



To sign up to volunteer or to request snow-shoveling assistance, email Jerry Jones at [jjones@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:jjones@rockvillemd.gov), call him at 240-314-8819 or call the Senior Center Support Services office at 240-314-8810.

To sign up for assistance or volunteer, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/snowshoveling](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/snowshoveling). For more info about Rockville Senior Services, call 240-314-8800 or email [seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:seniorcenter@rockvillemd.gov).

### FREE COVID-19 TESTING

- No Doctor's Order or Appointment Needed
- Locations Around Montgomery County

[MoCoCOVIDTesting.org](http://MoCoCOVIDTesting.org)  
240-777-1755



Sign up for City of Rockville Emergency Notifications



**HELP US LIGHT THE WAY ...** Notice a streetlight that's out or growing dim? Learn how to report it at [RockvilleReports.com/problematic-streetlight-heres-how-to-report-it](http://RockvilleReports.com/problematic-streetlight-heres-how-to-report-it) or just select "Report a concern" at the bottom of [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov).





## History Made: Frieda's Cottage Designated Historic Landmark

Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt signed paperwork Jan. 13 designating the Frieda Fromm-Reichmann Cottage, at 19 Thomas St. in the city's West End, as Rockville's first National Historic Landmark. Located on the former grounds of Chestnut Lodge sanitarium and restored by Peerless Rockville, the 1936 home, also known as Frieda's Cottage, served as home and office for Dr. Frieda Fromm-Reichmann, a pioneering psychiatrist in the treatment of schizophrenia. It joins a small number of National Historic Landmarks in Montgomery County, including the Clara Barton House in Glen Echo and the Rachel Carson House in Silver Spring. Learn more at [bit.ly/FriedasCottage](http://bit.ly/FriedasCottage) and at [peerlessrockville.org](http://peerlessrockville.org).

## Be Wary of Scams That Take Advantage of Seniors

Seniors have increasingly become the target for scammers in this time of COVID.

Remember these tips to protect yourself from scammers wanting to take advantage of you:

- Do not provide information over the phone. Scammers often ask leading questions to retrieve information from you. Often, you do not realize you are giving them valuable information.
- Scammers create a sense of urgency; they state that they are in distress and need money immediately. Slow down and ask the caller for detailed information and a contact number.
- Tell the caller you will call them back after you verify information.
- Attempt to verify the caller's story by calling family and/or friends. Scammers will often tell the loved one not to tell anyone and provide a reason as to why the situation cannot or should not be discussed.
- Remember that scammers often use a technique called "spoofing." Spoofing provides a fictitious number to a Caller ID display.
- Do not send money or provide someone with cash. The scammer might provide you with a tracking number or some other type of number to add legitimacy to their claim.
- Most importantly, contact police immediately if you believe you are a victim of a telephone scam. Call the non-emergency number for Montgomery County Police at 301-279-8000.

For more information about common scams, visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/seniors/fraud-and-scams.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/seniors/fraud-and-scams.html).

## Meet a Rockville Employee: Karen Etzel

Karen Etzel, director of Montrose Discovery Preschool, a licensed child-care program operated by the City of Rockville, marks two decades this year with the preschool. We asked her to answer a few questions to introduce this longtime employee to the community.

### When did you join the city?

I joined the city as an employee in 2000 but worked as a part-time staff member for many years before that. This year, I am being recognized for 20 years of service with the city.

### What did you do before joining the city?

Before joining the city, I ran a licensed home daycare for 10 years.

### Tell us about what you do at the preschool.

I am the director of Montrose Discovery Preschool at 451 Congressional Lane. My responsibilities include planning activities, mentoring teachers and preparing 3- to 5-year-olds for kindergarten. Montrose is unique for having a large number of non-English speaking children. I have learned to communicate with non-English speaking children by using body language, facial expressions and gestures. One year, the children of Montrose represented 11 different nations.

sponsibilities include planning activities, mentoring teachers and preparing 3- to 5-year-olds for kindergarten. Montrose is unique for having a large number of non-English speaking children. I have learned to communicate with non-English speaking children by using body language, facial expressions and gestures. One year, the children of Montrose represented 11 different nations.



### Anything else we should know?

I have lived in the City of Rockville for 32 years. I am originally from Kent, England. I have two beautiful granddaughters and I enjoy knitting and fishing in my free time.

Learn more about Montrose Discovery, which has openings available for preschoolers, at [www.rockvillemd.gov/360/Montrose-Discovery-Preschool](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/360/Montrose-Discovery-Preschool). ❖

## Planning Commission to Hold Public Hearing on Annexation

Rockville's Planning Commission is scheduled to hold a virtual public hearing, Wednesday, Feb. 10, on a proposal to annex almost 10.3 acres of land at 16200 Frederick Road.

The Mayor and Council initiated annexation proceedings at a meeting in November.

The annexation was initiated through a petition to the city by Victor, Inc., the property's owner, with a request to zone the area as mixed-use corridor district.

Annexation is the formal process of incorporating an area outside of the city's jurisdiction into its municipal boundaries. To be eligible, the property must be within the city's maximum expansion limits, as identified in the adopted Municipal Growth

Element of the Comprehensive Plan, and adjacent to city limits. The proposal must go through several steps before approval.

The public hearing will begin at 7 p.m.

The Mayor and Council

will hold a public hearing before making a final decision.

The Preliminary Annexation Plan is available at [bit.ly/39vNemI](http://bit.ly/39vNemI).

To testify at the public hearing, which will be held virtually, email [jwasilak@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:jwasilak@rockvillemd.gov) before 4 p.m. on Feb. 10 to be placed on the speakers list.

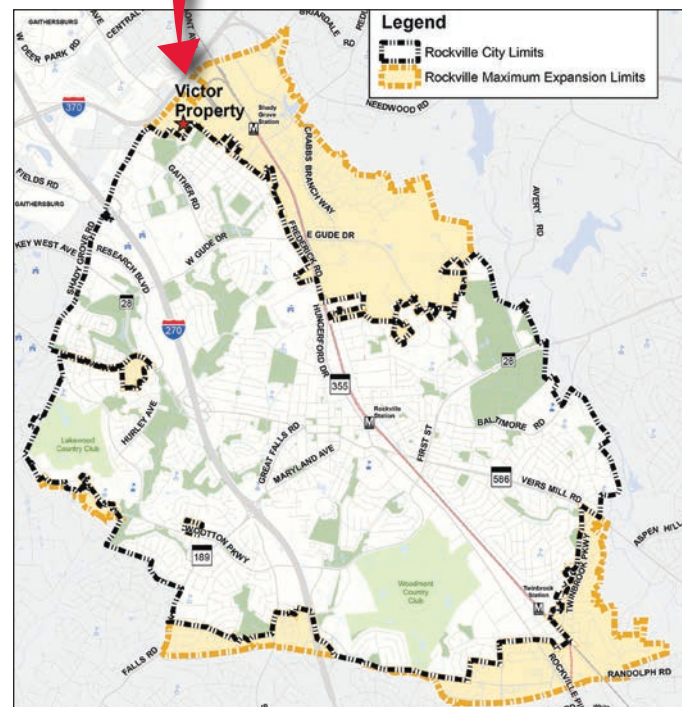
Spoken testimony is limited to three minutes for individuals, or five minutes if representing a group.

Submit written testimony to the Planning Commission via [planning.commission@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:planning.commission@rockvillemd.gov), or by mail, c/o Manisha Tewari, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

Contact Manisha Tewari at [mtewari@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:mtewari@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8213 for more information. ❖



Enlarged map of the proposed annexation property.



Rockville's maximum expansion limits, per 2010 Adopted Municipal Growth Element.

**TIPS FOR WEARING AND CARING FOR CLOTH FACE COVERINGS**

- Make sure there are no gaps around your nose and mouth.
- Wash your hands before putting on a face covering and immediately after removing one.
- Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose and mouth when removing your face covering.
- Routinely wash face coverings. According to the CDC, a washing machine properly washes a cloth face covering.

**Winter Special Edition**

**Rockville Farmers Market**

**Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021**

Winter Hours: 9 a.m.-noon  
Location: Corner of Route 28 and Monroe Street.

**GETTING THERE:**  
Metro: Red Line  
Ride On: Bus 47 and 56  
Free parking available.

[www.rockvillemd.gov/farmers](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/farmers) • 240-314-8620

**Questions, Concerns or Ideas?**  
Reach out to Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito at [rdspirito@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:rdspirito@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8102.

**City Manager:** Rob DiSpirito  
**Interim Deputy City Manager:** Tim Chesnutt  
**Director of Communication:** Marylou Berg  
**Public Information Specialists:** Cliff Cumber, Sean Sedam

**Web and Digital Manager:** Tatum B. Walker  
**Graphics and Printing:** Eric Ferrell, Erin Fincher, Lori Russler  
**Rockville II:** Hagop Balekjian, Craig Buchanan, Kathy Dantzler

**Rockville Reports** is the official publication of the City of Rockville, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. It is delivered to all homes and businesses within Rockville's city limits. Any individuals with disabilities who would like to receive the information in this publication in another form may contact the Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator at 240-314-8100; TTY 240-314-8137. Have an idea for "Rockville Reports"? Email [pio@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:pio@rockvillemd.gov).

**WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING THIS MONTH?** American Heart Month, National African American Month, National Bird-Feeding Month and National Children's Dental Health Month are just some of the celebrations marked in February, which, remember, hath 28 days, according to the old reminder. (And forget Valentine's Day — Sunday, Feb. 14 — at your peril!)